REMARKS

Claims 1-47 were examined, with claims 1-8, 10-17, 19, 20, 22-27, 31-37, 39-45, and 47 rejected. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 9, 18, 21, 28-30, 38, and 46.

Turning to the substance of the Office Action, claims 1-8, 10-17, 19, 20, 22-27, 31-37, 39-45, and 47 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Bouis et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,741,608) in view of Merritt et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,192,250). It is the Examiner's position that Bouis discloses all of the claimed features of the independent claims except for the wireless communication system having a plurality of processors executed in accordance with a communication protocol; in an attempt to make up for this deficiency, the Examiner applies Merritt.

The claims are directed to a wireless communication method and system for hosting a plurality of processes, each process in the plurality of processes executed in accordance with a communication protocol, the communication protocol including a set of functions. The system has a plurality of application specific instruction set processors (ASISPs) and a scheduler or centralized controller. Each ASISP is capable of executing a subset of the set of functions included in the communication protocol. The scheduler or centralized controller is connected to the plurality of ASISPs for scheduling the plurality of ASISPs in accordance with a scheduling scheme or time-slicing algorithm so that each process in the plurality of processes is supported by the wireless communication system. Alternatively, the scheduler or centralized controller schedules the functions calculated by each ASISP in a master/slave relationship, thereby reducing the amount of inter-process overhead between the computing components in the device.

Bouis is directed to a completely different system from the present invention. That is, Bouis is directed to multimedia conversion, and more specifically to a transcoder system wherein a controller selects and arranges multimedia conversion modules in a series to provide conversion from a source multimedia format to a destination multimedia format. (Col. 2, lines 27-31.) Bouis' main focus is converting streaming video and audio over the internet. (Col. 1, line 66, through col. 2, line 9.)

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Because Bouis is directed to a completely different system from the present invention, there are many claimed features not taught or suggested by Bouis. For example, Bouis does not suggest a plurality of processes executed in accordance with a communication protocol, as required by the claims. A communication protocol is a set of rules governing the format of communications between a mobile phone and a base station. Examples of communications protocols include TDMA (time division multiple access) and CDMA (code division multiple access). Bouis does not in any way relate to such protocols. Again, Bouis discusses converting multimedia from one format to another.

Similarly, Merritt is directed to a completely different system from the present invention. Merritt is directed to a system for communicating images across a network (e.g., a public switched telecommunications network (PSTN)) among users with disparate end systems running potentially dissimilar image protocols and formats. The system includes an image-profile database 24, which holds profiles of end users. The profiles typically include the capabilities of the end systems of the subscribing end users for storing, processing, and displaying images, preferably including the acceptable and preferred image protocols, compression methods, and image formats for each user. A communication of an originating image from a calling party to a called party is diverted to the network-based image processing system 10. The network-based image processing system 10 ascertains whether the originating image file format and protocol matches the called party preferred file format and protocol, which is stored in the database 24. If there is no match, the image file format conversion server converts the calling party image file to the acceptable or preferred image file format of the called party. This server preferably includes conversion control processor 26 and one or more conversion processors 271, 272 ...27n.

While Merritt may teach that the network may be a PSTN, and specifically an AT&T network, it does not suggest a wireless communication system. A PSTN is a wireline rather than a wireless network, and thus Merritt is a directly to a communication system very different than that claimed. Merritt therefore does not make up for Bouis' deficiencies.

Further, neither Bouis nor Merritt, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests a plurality of application specific instruction set processors (ASISPs), as also required by the claimed invention. An ASISP is a specific type of device that is different from a dedicated hardware architecture and different from a software architecture (programmable CPU based). An ASISP takes the best features of both of these architectures and combines them into a single architecture - the ASISPs architecture. The modules in Bouis and the processors in Merritt are basic modules in a computer system; they are clearly not the very specific type of processor known as ASISPs. Thus, the claims are patentable over the applied references for this additional reason.

Further, even were Bouis' modules or Merritt's processors 27 equivalent to the claimed ASISPs, the applied references still would not suggest an ASISP capable of executing a subset of a set of functions included in a communication protocol, as also required by the claims. Such a feature is advantageous in that memory requirements and computation ability of a class of ASISPs is scaled to match the demands of the applications designed to run on the class of ASISPs. Bouis' modules are each dedicated to a specific function, such as data compression, data decompression, data encryption, data decryption, data format conversion, data media conversion, or data signaling processing. (Paragraph bridging columns 2 and 3.) There is no disclosure in Bouis that a single module can execute a subset of a set of functions. Merritt's modules are each dedicated to a converting file formats; there is no disclosure in Merritt that a single processor 27 can execute a subset of a set of functions. Thus, the claims are patentable over the applied references for this additional reason.

Many of the dependent claims recite further details of the claimed invention, and particularly the ASISPs. Since the applied references do not suggest ASISPs, it necessarily follows that they also do not suggest the details of the ASISPs.

With further regard to claims 13-16, 42, and 43, Merritt does not suggest CDMA or TDMA protocols, as alleged by the Examiner. Again, Merritt's system is directed to wireline rather than wireless communications, and CDMA and TDMA are wireless protocols.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are patentable over the applied references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the prior art rejection is therefore respectfully requested. Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,
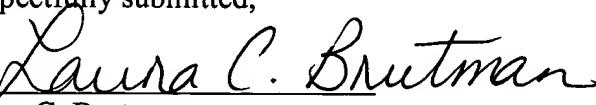
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